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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Spain

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SUBJECT Statements of Lopez Olivan Concerning Luque
and Paricio

DIST. 10 July 1947

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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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Circumstances Leading to the Meeting

1. When Luque and Paricio first arrived in Paris in late April, they let it be known that they did not wish to contact any representative of the Spanish Left in Paris. Furthermore, they were not willing to meet Lopez Olivan or any representative of the Right. However, when they were faced with difficulties concerning their onward passage to Portugal, they expressed the wish to meet Lopez Olivan. The latter, when this suggestion was conveyed to him by the French, was reluctant to agree to a conference, but he subsequently received instructions from Eatoril to make the contact. Accordingly, Lopez Olivan informed the French that he would meet Luque and Paricio but stipulated that the meeting take place outside Paris, in the hope of avoiding publicity. A meeting was arranged at Aix-les-Bains, where it took place in mid-May.

Luque's Credentials

2. Luque produced credentials from the CNT but, according to Lopez Olivan, they were flimsy. They authorized Luque to discuss with Lopez Olivan "various questions", including "the outline of a possible agreement with the Monarchists." Luque was not authorized to conclude any agreement. Paricio produced no credentials and took only a minor part in the discussions.

Luque's Proposal

3. Luque proposed the following plan for an interim government:
 - a. A "Confederation" should be set up, to include representatives of all groups opposed to Franco, with the exception of the Communists.

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- b. The "Confederation" should appoint a government to include an equal number of Leftists and Rightists.
- c. The "Confederation" should continue to sit as a committee exercising supreme authority, and would give a final ruling on questions on which the government could not agree. The committee would work on the principle of a unanimous vote.
- d. In due course a plebiscite should be held to determine whether Spain's form of government should be a republic or a monarchy.
- e. Under no circumstances should Don Juan return to Spain without obtaining the authorization of the "Confederation" to do so even if invited to return following a military coup.

In propounding this plan, Luque volunteered the information that in the plebiscite he and his organization would vote for a republic.

Olivan's Comment on the Plan

4. After hearing the exposition of this plan, Lopez Olivan commented on it to Luque along the following lines:
- a. Apparently, no account had been taken of the basic question of how Franco was to be deposed. He, Lopez Olivan, was convinced that Franco was now in too strong a position for his overthrow to be possible without some form of intervention by Great Britain and the United States.
 - b. The CNT in evolving its plan appeared to have forgotten the Socialists. Even if it were possible for the Monarchists to come to an agreement with the CNT, and such an agreement did not appear very attractive from the monarchist viewpoint if the CNT had decided definitely to vote against a Monarchy (see the last sentence of Paragraph 3 above), he felt that it was essential that the Socialists should be a party to such an agreement from the beginning.
 - c. Lopez Olivan did not think it very likely that the committee would be able to work effectively on the principle of a unanimous vote (see Paragraph 3,c above).
 - d. He thought that it would be useless to expect Don Juan to promise to obtain permission from the Confederation to return to Spain, in the event that he should be invited to return following a military coup.

Inconclusive End to the Meeting

5. A long discussion ensued, but no conclusions were reached. Finally Lopez Olivan left for Geneva, after having told Luque and the French that if Luque and Paricio wished to proceed to Lisbon, he saw no harm in their going, but that he did not think much would be accomplished by the trip.

Trifon Gomez' Views

6. On 24 May, Colonel Fourcaud of the French SDECE visited Lopez Olivan in Geneva and asked him to come to Paris to meet Luque again. According to Fourcaud, Luque and Paricio were now less anxious to go to Portugal than formerly and the French were disappointed by their change in attitude.

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Lopez Olivan refused to make a special journey to Paris, but agreed to stay there for two or three days on his way to London. (Note: Lopez Olivan reached London on 10 June). He did not even then promise to see Luque. In Paris, Lopez Olivan did not in fact see Luque or Paricio again, but he did see Trifon Gomez, who had had an interview with both of them after the Aix-les-Bains meeting. Trifon Gomez expressed the following views:

- a. He considered Luque's credentials to be very flimsy.
- b. He was doubtful as to the body of opinion in Spain that Luque actually represented.
- c. He thought that the real reason for the desire of Luque and Paricio to go to Portugal was that they hoped to persuade Don Juan to authorize a resumption of direct negotiations between themselves on the one hand and Generals Aranda and Beigbeder, leading Monarchists inside Spain, on the other.

Trifon Gomez added that Luque had asked him to appoint a Socialist (see Paragraph 4, b above) to accompany him to Portugal. Gomez had refused, saying that Luque would have done better to bring with him a Socialist from the Interior.

The French Role

7. Lopez Olivan made the following remarks concerning the French role in the Luque-Paricio affair:

- a. From the beginning Fourcaud gave the impression that Luque's difficulty in proceeding to Portugal was due to British obstruction.
- b. Fourcaud did not take part in the meeting at Aix-les-Bains, but he was in Aix and was advised of the gist of the proceedings.
- c. At the end of the Aix-les-Bains meeting Fourcaud tried to persuade Lopez Olivan to return to Paris with him as "there was good news of a change of attitude by Great Britain and the United States." Lopez Olivan did not believe him and refused.

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